

depth of penetration (of light)

The inverse of the *absorption coefficient*. If the decadic absorption coefficient, a , is used, the depth of penetration ($1/a$) is the distance at which the radiant power, P_λ , decreases to one tenth of its incident value, P_λ^0 .

If the Napierian absorption coefficient, α , is used, the depth of penetration ($1/\alpha = \beta$ in this case) is the distance at which the radiant power decreases to $1/e$ of its incident value.

See *absorbance, attenuation*.

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